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Savory 3 FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE SWEET HERBS*

Most of the commonly used "sweet herbs" belong to one or the other of two great plant families, the Labiateae and the Umbelliferae. A few others, of which the most important is Tarragon, belong to the Compositae.

I. Labiatae - Leaves sprinkled over with tiny glands containing a volatile oil, which gives the plant its characteristic flavor.

Basil (*Ocimum Basilicum* and *O. minimum*)

Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis*)

Mints:

Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*) and other varieties

Balm (*Melissa officinalis*)

Catmint (*Nepeta Cataria*)

Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*)

Marjoram (*Origanum Onites*, *O. Marjorana* and *O. vulgare*)

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) and Clary Sage (*Salvia Sclarea*)

Savory, Summer and Winter (*Satureia hortensis* and *Satureia montana*)

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

Characteristics: Stems square; leaves opposite.

Flowers 2-lipped, borne in axils of leaves, usually several together in rings or whorls which may constitute loose or compact spikes.

Fertilization mainly by bees.

Seeds, 4 small fruits or nutlets.

II. Umbelliferae - Seeds have oil-ducts between the longitudinal ribs.

The aromatic oil is found to some extent in other parts of the plant, as in dill, chervil, parsley.

Chervil (*Anthriscus Cerefolium*) Angelica (*Archangelica officinalis*)

Parsley (*Carum Petroselinum*) Caraway (*Carum Carvi*)

Cumin (*Cuminum Cyminum*) Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*)

Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*) Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)

Anise (*Pimpinella Anisum*) Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* and var. *dulce*)

Characteristics: Stems cylindrical, usually hollow.

Leaves generally compound, base of stalk makes sheath which clasps the stem.

Flowers small, usually white or pinkish, in compound umbels.

III. Compositae -

Tarragon (*Artemisia Dracunculus*)

Marigold (*Calendula officinalis*)

Southernwood (*Artemisia Abrotanum*)

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*).

To the representatives of these three great families may be added Rue, Borage, Burnet, and Sweet Bay, each belonging to a different plant family.

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* Notes from Culinary Herbs and Condiments by Mrs. M. Grieve, published by Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York City.







